

HISTORY

The National Science Bowl was created in 1990 by the Department of Energy, in order to recognize motivated high school students who excel in both mathematics and science. The National Science Bowl is a double-elimination, academic competition amongst teams from across the country. These teams have won the right to compete nationally, having achieved the highest level in their regional conference.

Regional tournaments are required in order to enable advancement to the National Science Bowl. Sponsorship of Regional Science Bowls, by both federal power marketing administrations and corporate communities, continues to support the students and the program.

In 1990, INTEL was one of the key sponsors in funding the regional and the national contests. As one of the key sponsors, INTEL (located in Chandler, Arizona) contacted the Arizona Department of Education to establish the process for conducting and selecting a team to represent Arizona in a regional contest.

Through telephone conversations and correspondence with INTEL's Public Affairs Representative, it was determined that a team representing Arizona would go to Berkeley, California, and compete with the group assigned to Lawrence Hall of Science.

INTEL made all of the arrangements – plane tickets, hotel accommodations, and additional trip expenses. Tickets were delivered to Dr. Charles Y. Hoyt, State Director, Division C Science Olympiad, who accompanied Dr. Sonnie Stevens (Coach), four students, and an alternate, to the Berkeley contest. Sixteen teams participated, and the team representing Arizona received fourth place.

This extraordinary experience was so valuable that Dr. Hoyt requested Arizona's continued participation in the High School Science Bowl Competition. In December, he wrote to DOE inquiring about the regional competition for 1992.

In both 1992 and 1993, the Science Olympiad contests were held in March – too late for Science Bowl teams to qualify for the High School Science Bowl Competition. However, in October 1992, Dr. Hoyt was invited to speak and be a panel member at the American Public Power Association Educational Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. At this conference, he met Mr. Randy Manion and other representatives of DOE's Western Area Power Administration (Western).

Discussions centered on the difficulties involved due to the February scheduling, and to try and establish how Arizona could participate in 1994. This led to a meeting between Mr. Manion and Dr. Hoyt, during which they compiled a budget and guidelines for the Arizona High School Science Bowl.

It was determined that Arizona could be established as a "regional" by itself. With Western Area Power Administration (Western) as the Sponsor, it was agreed that the State Science Bowl Olympiad and the Arizona High School Science Bowl Competition would be held jointly, and thus enable them to meet the National Science Bowl deadlines.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE BOWL?

The Science Bowl is a tournament-style, academic competition that challenges and recognizes students' knowledge of both mathematics and the sciences. The questions are short-answer and multiple choice, and include topics such as biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, astronomy, mathematics, computer science, and general science. "Toss-up" questions are read to each team. The first player on either team to activate the lock-out buzzer system wins the right to answer the question. After a team member has answered correctly, the team is given the opportunity to answer a bonus question. The team with the most points at the end of each round advances to the next round.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Teams are selected on a “first-come-first-serve” basis, up to a maximum of 32 teams. (It is possible for a school to register more than one team.) A team consists of four students, with one alternate for each team.

EVERYONE’S A WINNER!

Each student receives a certificate of recognition. Students, coaches, and volunteers are provided with lunch, T-shirts, and grab bag items, which are all graciously donated by the sponsors.

The top four teams are awarded trophies, individual medallions, and scholarship funds. The winning team receives a banner to hang in their school, and represents the State of Arizona in the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. (All expenses are paid by the Department of Energy.)

SPONSORS

Sponsors receive recognition on all printed materials, including T-shirts worn by everyone present.

FOR MORE DETAILS

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